

Testimony to the  
National Committee on Vital and Health  
Statistics  
Subcommittee on Standards and Security

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On Behalf of the Markle Foundation



# Connecting for Health...a Public-Private Collaborative

Vision: Providers, those responsible for population health, researcher, reimbursers, auditors and most importantly, consumers will have ready access to timely, relevant, reliable, and secure health care information through an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure, to drive better health and health care at reduced cost



# Participant Organizations

- Practicing clinicians
- Hospitals and health systems
- Employers and third party payers
- Federal government agencies
- Health care IT suppliers
- Academic and research institutions
- National standards groups
- Manufacturers
- Consumer and patient groups

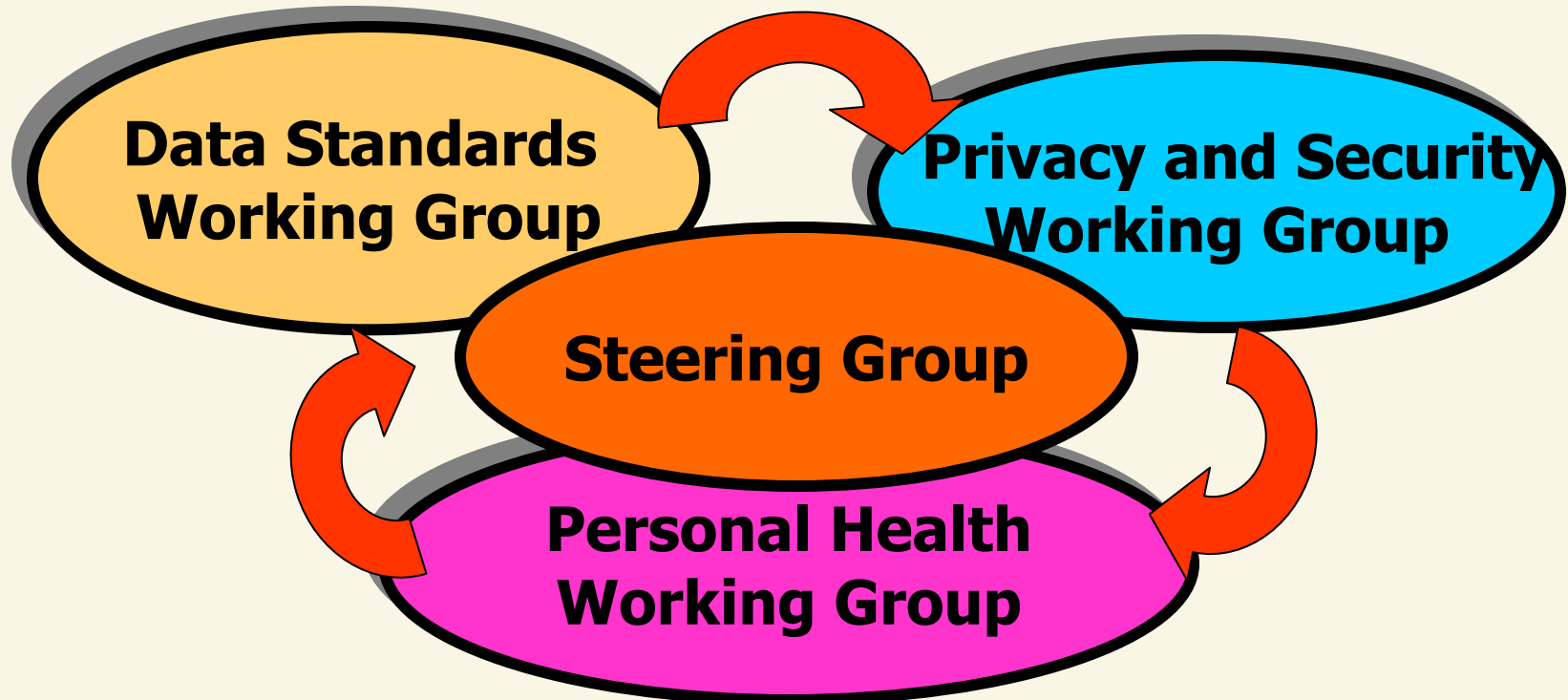


# Connecting for Health Purpose

- Catalyze specific actions on a national basis that will rapidly clear the way for an interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure:
  - Accelerating the rate of adoption of clinical data standards
  - Sharing best practices for secure and private transmission of medical information
  - Actively working to understand what health care consumers will need and expect from a interconnected, electronic health information infrastructure

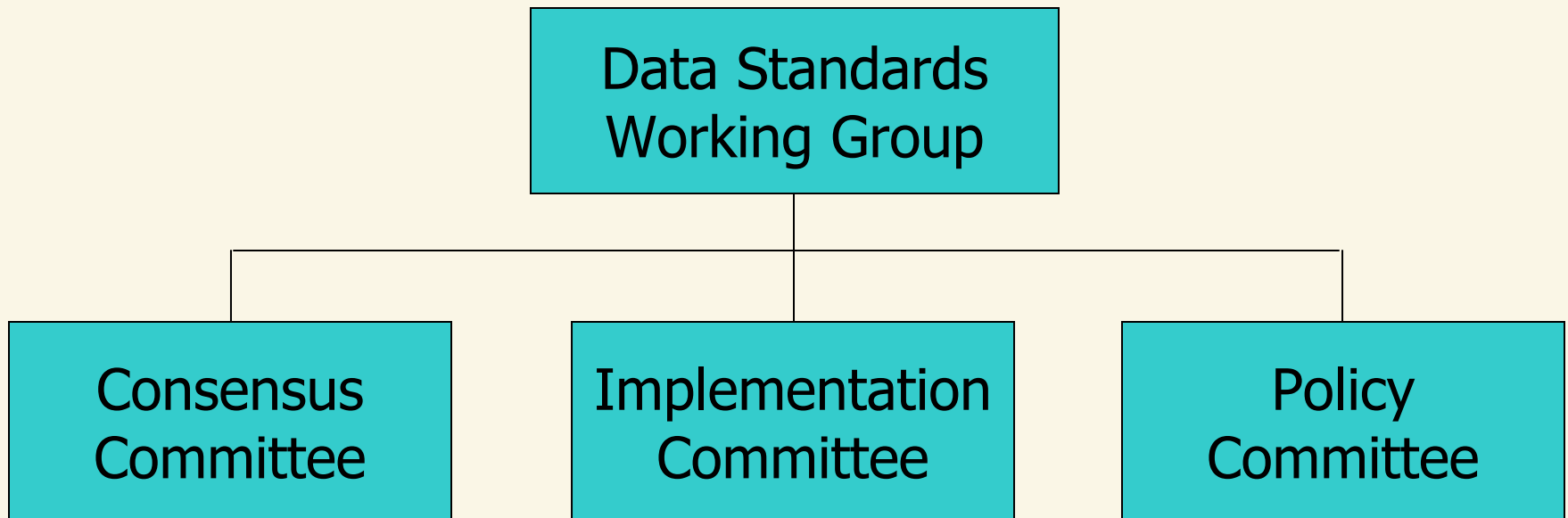


# Connecting for Health



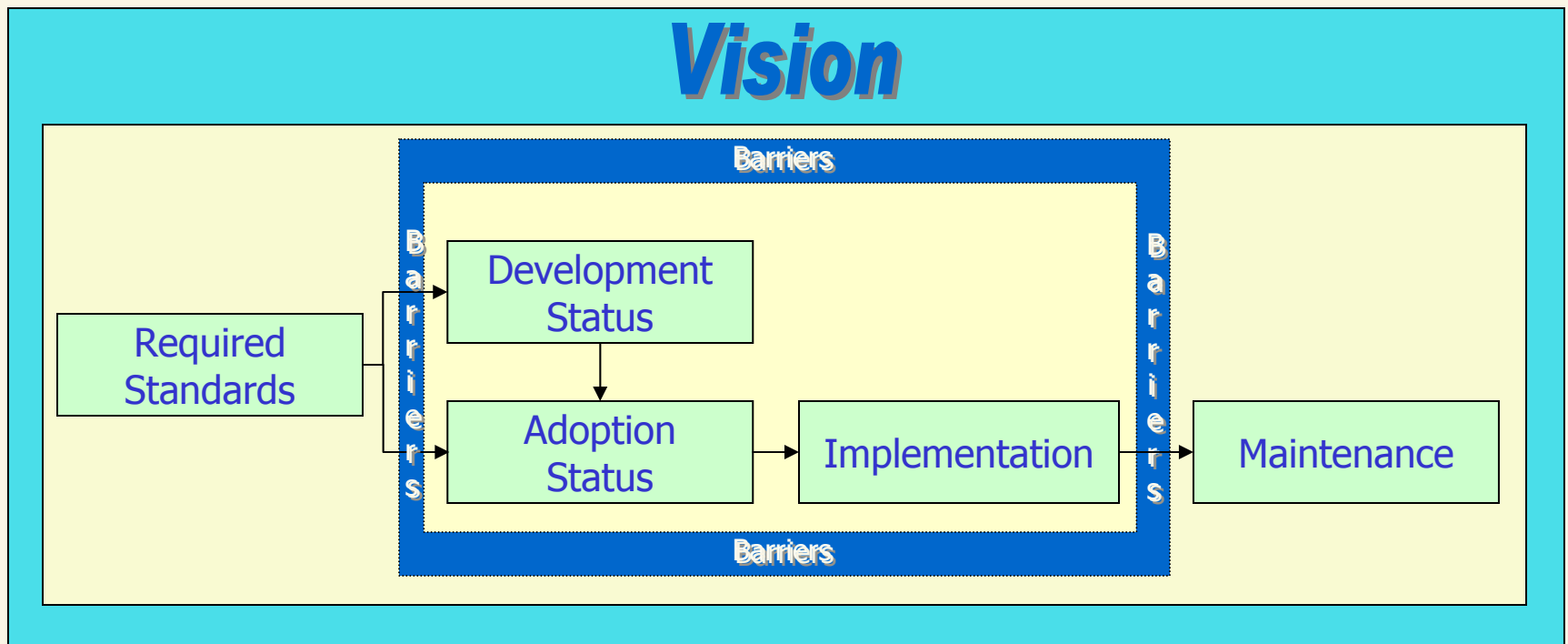
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# Data Standards Working Group Overview



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# Connecting for Health Process



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# Key Results of July 2002 Data Standards Working Group Launch

- Developed and applied criteria to standards set, identifying “operable” standards set
- Identified overlapping data needs of key “data consumers”, including practicing clinicians and providers, patients, payers, regulators, and public health – “priority data classes”
- Cross-walked priority data needs to “operable standards”
- Initiated work on strategies to move standards into play to deliver the required data to all stakeholders





# Next Steps: Data Standards Working Group

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- Vet results of kick-off meeting with other Connecting for Health Working Groups, Steering Group, and other key stakeholders through a variety of venues
- Identify the next steps to keep the process moving



# Next Steps: Data Standards Working Group

- Accelerate the adoption of required data standards whose development is underway
- Articulate the need for required standards not yet underway
- Articulate recommendations related to terminology
- Develop actionable, practical strategies to help clear barriers and accelerate the adoption of priority “operable set” of standards
- Articulate the road to interoperability



# Interaction With PMRI Standards and Terminology

- Providing a forum where data users, systems developers, and clinical care providers can become informed and engaged in a dialogue and develop a consensus on standards and strategies to move adoption to a broad group of stakeholders
- Facilitating the broad scale adoption and rapid implementation of data standards



# Standards Requiring Accelerated Attention

- Terminology
- Business rules
- Clinical templates
- Clinical documents (2+)
- Guidelines/decision support
- Interconnected Health Information Infrastructure/EHR



# Plans for Addressing Gaps

- Establish criteria for assessing options in each gap area
- Develop recommendations where options exist
- Recommend and encourage the undertaking of strategies for developing standards where none exist
- Identify resources to accelerate the development of standards



# Relationship to Other Standards Initiatives

- Standards groups and experts are represented across all of our groups
- Existing standards are the basis for our recommendations
- Actively collaborating, through overlapping involvement, communication, etc. with other initiatives
- Willing to make decisions and endorsements



# NCVHS Assistance

- Leverage the work of Connecting for Health by:
  - Continuing today's dialogue
  - Allowing our work to inform your deliberations
  - Providing us with comments on our proposals and strategies
  - Simply work in harmony to achieve our common goals

